



# FIRST UU NEWS

*We gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.*

## Changes

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



Whew. Doesn't it seem as though we've made a lot of changes this year? When I try to think about what they are, all I can come up with is that we moved the services back 15 minutes so the choir folks don't have to get up for 7:45 am rehearsal.

We added a Director of Membership and Communications, Carla Jo Schaefer, who is making sure our new members (77 since September) are as well-integrated as possible into the life of the congregation. She has been recruiting and training mentors who introduce new members to those who have been here for a time, invite them to Sharing Suppers, just being a familiar face in a sea of new faces.

Freshen UUp, our project to repaint the church, is making changes in how welcoming the space looks. We are getting electronic bulletin boards that Carla Jo will load with flyers, ads, photos and announcements of upcoming events.

The Welcome Center is now staffed with volunteers who answer the phones and support the staff and committee chairs. You come into the church during business hours and you're greeted by a friendly face.

Thanks to the generosity of Karen Neeley, we now have an accessible automatic door to the church, and we're about to get another one on the north doors.

We've hired a professional sound man, Conor Bell, to make the sound in worship as good as it can be, and

to provide good sound for the new "Coffee House Service" in Howson Hall.

We've begun Martha's Free Breakfast, so named because it is made possible by a bequest from the will of Martha Leipziger. We put it in place in order to bring more people to the first service to relieve overcrowding at the second service, and to make it easier for families with small children to come to church.

**Even good changes can be strenuous, tiring. What feels like too much change to one person can feel like not enough to another. What do you think?**

In RE, we have gone from having paid teachers to having committed volunteer teachers pass on the values and history of Unitarian Universalism to our kids.

The new Director of Lifespan RE, Marisol Caballero, was ordained on April 26, so now is the Assistant Minister whose portfolio is Reli-

gious Education. For the first time, First UU will be a two-minister church! We have added some more Chalice Circles, and added RE classes to Wednesday nights, renaming the dinners FReD, to stand for Fellowship, RE and dinner.

We've added clearer signage, which has prompted positive comments from my visiting colleagues. The Healthy Relations Covenant has been worked on all year by a revision team, just to let us know that it's a living document, and to make it even easier to work with.

We had a "First Annual" Baby Parade.

The Paradox Players became involved in community outreach by doing a couple of children's plays, directed by Jean Boehme, and taking them out into the public schools.

I'm sure I'm not thinking of everything that's changing around here. I'm exhausted/excited just writing about all of these things!

Even good changes can be strenuous, tiring. What feels like too much change to one person can feel like not enough to another. What do you think?

Last year, I took my vacation and study leave *continued on page 2*

**Changes***continued from page 1*

together, in July and August. That felt like being gone for too long. This year I'm breaking it up by taking three weeks in May. In June I'll be back in the pulpit and then going to General Assembly in Louisville. You can check out GA at UUA.org, or ask our Chair of Denominational Affairs, Karen Franks, about it. You may find that you want to come with us! Then I'll take study leave in July, where I decide on the sermon topics for the year. I'll be back in August in time to gear up for Stewardship season.

I will miss you all while I'm gone. Rev. Mari will preach two of the Sundays in May after I leave on the 6th, and the Youth will be doing the service on the 19th. I know they will have something thought-provoking to say to you! ■

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS****Thanks and goodbye!****by Susan Thomson**

Last June I wrote my first newsletter column as president of the Board of Trustees and began by stating what a privilege I considered it to be to serve as your president.



Well, my term as president ends this month, and I still consider it a privilege. Although I am not contemplating a ministerial career, unlike two of the three presidents who preceded me in this position, my faith as a UU has continued to grow stronger during the three years I have served on the board. And my love for this congregation has deepened as well.

Your board has been busy this past 12 months mastering the skills needed for effective policy based governance. At our annual board retreat last June we created an annual agenda for board meetings. It includes a schedule for monthly monitoring. Monitoring serves to ensure that our assets are protected, that our financial planning and activities keep us on a sound financial footing, that our congregants, friends, visitors and staff are treated with respect as our values and principles dictate and that everyone's safety is ensured. We receive and assess regular reports from Rev. Meg that demonstrate compliance with the policies the board has established. Equally as important, we monitor our congregation's progress toward our ends of intentional hospitality, nourishing souls and transforming lives and witnessing to justice.

The board conducted linkage activities with the congregation in the fall and the spring. Linkage is a form of intentional

dialog and listening to ensure that the ends we have established continue to be reflective of your desires for our church. Our linkage activities were in the form of Conversational Tables we set up in Howson Hall. The fall conversation topic was nourishing souls and the spring topic was courage, one of our First UU Values.

First UU has welcomed many new members in the past 12 months, including well over 50 so far in 2013. One of my favorite tasks as president has been to do the welcome at the quarterly Path

**... my faith as a UU has continued to grow stronger during the three years I have served on the board.**

to Membership classes. The participants are asked to share their faith journeys or spiritual backgrounds, for example, how they

found their way to First UU. I have heard remarkable stories at each class and I have always come away inspired by the enthusiasm of our new members. With that in mind, I encourage our more tenured members to become mentors in our new mentoring program. This furthers our end of intentional hospitality by helping our new folks become integrated into the life of our congregation.

I also believe that furthering our end of intentional hospitality requires us to face our space and facilities challenges head-on as we continue to welcome our new members. Please be open to examining the possibilities for expanding and improving our facilities as we work together in the coming months to explore the options for First UU that will best *continued on page 3*

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enable us to live our mission.

Voting members of the congregation should have received the notice of our Spring Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 5. We will be asking for your approval of a revised Covenant of Healthy Relations and bylaws changes concerning board composition and selection of officers, nominating committee functions and authority for sale of gifts of real estate. Finally, we will vote on the slate of candidates presented by the nominating committee for elected positions on the board and nominating committee. Information about this outstanding group of candidates can be found at the end of this article.

I want to acknowledge and thank those who served with me on the board this year, including Eric Hepburn and Mike LeBurkien, whose terms are expiring, and Ann Edwards, John Franks and Russell Smith, who have time remaining in their terms. Carolyn Gremminger and Ken Pfluger served on the board this year and have agreed to be nominated for other board positions for the coming year. And Michael Kersey, elected by the board to fill the President-Elect position vacated by Bruce Barker, will become president

in June. These wonderful people have made my job much, much easier. Please join me in thanking them for their service to our church. ■

### 2013-14 slate of nominees

The individuals listed below represent the slate of nominees selected by the First UU Nominating Committee. They will be elected at the May 5 Congregational Meeting, which will be held in the Sanctuary at 1:30 p.m.

**Carolyn Gremminger**,  
President-Elect

**Dwayne Windham**, Secretary

**Jerry Perkins**, Treasurer

**Ken Pfluger, Steve Swinnea  
and Julia Paasche**, Trustees

**Michael Kersey**, who was elected to fill the President-Elect position vacated by Bruce Barker, will become President.

### Congregational meeting

**Sunday, May 5  
Sanctuary**

**1:30-3:30 p.m.**

Congregation members will vote on several matters. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Voting list: we have generated the list of everyone who is eligible to vote and it is posted in the copy room. Please check to make sure you're on the list. Eligibility: in addition to having signed the membership book, the bylaws require that you have made a gift of record between May 5, 2012, and April 5, 2013, to vote in this congregational meeting. Any gift will do (cash, check, stock) as long as we received it within the date range and that we can connect it to you (cash in an envelope without your name on it, for example, does not qualify). If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about any of the above, please contact Sean Hale, director of finance and operations, [sean@austinuu.org](mailto:sean@austinuu.org), 512-452-6168 x 308. ■

## Good news! Training to get deputized to register people to vote continues through the end of June

Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor/Collector-Voter Registrar, has agreed to extend the training sessions to become a volunteer deputy registrar through May and all of June. Come on down to the First UU on a Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and get trained to do voter registration.

Only one training session is required. Please sign up for one of the training ses-

sions listed below by sending an email to [maptrick@gmail.com](mailto:maptrick@gmail.com). Please indicate the date that you will attend.

Training starts promptly at 10 a.m. (Please arrive shortly before 10 a.m.) Here are the dates:

May - 4, 11, 18 and 25

June - 2, 8, 15, 22, and 29

## Welcome new members

If you were at worship services on Sunday, April 28, you had the opportunity to meet our new group of new members. If you did not attend the April 28 service, check out the new member bulletin board in the Welcome Center. Below is a list of new members who have joined First UU since Jan. 27. If you see anyone wearing a red new member ribbon, please be sure and say hello! ■

Matthew Adams  
 Mary Avery  
 Geraldine Cassidy  
 Molly Costigan  
 Katie Dawson  
 Peter Durkin  
 Janet Eberhart-Manulik  
 Kathryn Ehlert  
 Phillip Estes  
 Jo Ann Farrell  
 Jacqueline Giraud-Sykes  
 Mark Giraud-Sykes  
 Gentry Hearn  
 Eric Hollas  
 Morgan Jenatton  
 Amanda Jones  
 Jennifer Juday  
 Sunil Khanna  
 Lauren Laux  
 Althea Logan  
 Charles Mims  
 Cavan O'Rayhallaigh  
 Elias Ponvert  
 Candace Pruet  
 Maggie Schleich  
 Sarah Wilson Tanner  
 Skyler Tanner  
 Josh Vieyra  
 Lisa Windham

## Member Profile

### Mary Patrick: Volunteering, having fun

In her usual self-effacing style, First UU member Mary Patrick dismisses any hyperbole about her leadership role within the congregation or within the community. In fact, getting her to agree to be featured in the newsletter was hard enough—getting her to take credit for her accomplishments was even more difficult. However, there is a story that should be told about a woman who tirelessly works for social issues, political causes, and for First UU.

In February 2013, Mary received the Star Award for her volunteer work from the Capital Area chapter of the Texas Democratic Women. She is a former CADW board member and currently serves as president of Women for Good Government. WGG is a group of progressive women organized to find opportunities to shape public policy and to facilitate members' involvement in political action. In 2012 Mary headed WGG's volunteer activity at the Travis County Democratic Party's Coordinated Campaign from June through election day.

Mary has been involved in political and social activism since the early 1960s, before she could even vote. "I protested and marched for and against many social and political issues. I worked on most of the presidential campaigns—my favorites were Clinton and Obama. The worst heartbreaker was George McGovern. I also worked on Lloyd Doggett's campaigns, the 2010 governor's campaigns and on



*Mary Pat directs traffic at the Democratic Campaign Headquarters, Sept. 2012*

several city and county campaigns for many years."

What drives her to commit so much of her time to these causes? "It keeps me out of the pool halls and being part border collie, I love to work," says Mary with a laugh. "But seriously, I do all of

**Each moment is a rehearsal for the next moment, so pay attention.**

the things that I do for myself. Being engaged with people (socially or working together), my community, my church, my world, politics and causes inspires and energizes me and helps me to feel part of it all. I am very fortunate to have the time to do the things that I enjoy doing."

Mary joined First UU in 2011, and what she has done during her relatively short tenure as a member is impressive. Currently, she co-chairs the membership committee, she oversees the Welcome Center, she is a pastoral care associate, an usher/greeter and a mentor to new members. She also works in the First UU office, providing much-needed support to the staff.

"Volunteering anywhere is an opportunity to learn about my community, the organizations that support that commu-



**Mary Patrick***continued from page 4*

nity and the great people who live in it," says Mary. "Volunteering at First UU is a wonderful and easy way to get to know how the church works and affords me an opportunity to get to meet and know lots of fellow church members. I strongly encourage members, especially those who are new, to get involved volunteering at the church, Try it, you'll like it."

Over the years, Mary has supported numerous other groups and causes, including Battleground Texas, the Humane Society of Austin, Ann Richards School for Girls, Girls Start, Gen Austin and

Literacy Austin, just to name a few.

Mary has lived in Austin since 1964 when she came to the University of Texas, where she graduated with a degree in Portuguese and Spanish. She has a son, a writer, whom she regularly visits in New York City.

When Mary is not volunteering, she takes yoga classes, reads (she's a member of two book clubs) and watches movies. But what she really enjoys? "I really love rock and roll and dancing."

Mary has a very simple philosophy that guides her: "each moment is a rehearsal for the next moment, so pay attention. ■"

**Can you spare a smile?**

Every first Sunday of each month, four volunteers from First UU Church carpool from the church to the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) downtown, and serve dinner, cafeteria-style to 100 men who will be sleeping there for the night. The food we serve is absolutely delicious and we don't need to cook it or wash the dishes! There is lots of time to get to know other church members and a very real way to nourish the souls and stomachs of those who have been on the streets that day. These men are friendly, grateful and a true joy to meet and chat with as they walk through the line. Minimum age to serve is 18. You can sign up for every month, or as you have availability. Please contact arch@austinuu.org or Natalie at (415) 203-4808 to be added to the yahoo group. ■

**Save the date for the 2nd Annual Choir Benefit Variety Show!**

Come enjoy an evening of entertainment and fellowship as the First UU Choir hosts its second annual benefit show on Thursday, May 9! This year, some of our talented church members will be joining us onstage. We'll have songs, of course, but this is a variety show, so expect to see a few acts you don't normally see during Sunday services. Why yes, you might be wondering—there will be a belly dancer!

We'll have a potluck in Howson Hall, starting at 6 p.m., so bring your favorite dish. The show will be in the Sanctuary

from 7-9:30 p.m., including an intermission. Childcare will be available from 6-10 p.m. in the RE wing.

This is an open-donation event, so give whatever you're able at the door. Proceeds will benefit our choir member, Virginia Luehrsen, helping with medical expenses due to a recent accident. ■

**Schedule of events**

- 6 p.m. - Potluck in Howson Hall (beverages provided)
- 7-9:30 p.m. - Variety Show in the Sanctuary
- 6-1 p.m. - Childcare provided

**Memorial service for Giles W. Garmon to be held June 8**

The memorial service for long-time First UU member, Giles W. Garmon, of Manor, Texas will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, in the Sanctuary. Giles died on Sunday, April 7. He is survived by his wife of more than 70 years, Dorothy Garmon. Giles was the fire commissioner for the Travis County ESD #12, where he served since 1996. In December 2012, Giles was honored by the district for his service through

the renaming of fire station 1201, which bears his name. In 1958, Giles became the first probation officer in Travis County, where he served until 1986. He was director of the department for many years.

Giles was proud to have served our country honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II, including fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, Giles was born on Oct. 27, 1922, in Powderly, Texas. ■

**Yew Grove Moon Circles**

Join fellow UU members on the third Thursday of the month for the Yew Grove Moon Circles. Visit [www.austinuu.org/yewgrove](http://www.austinuu.org/yewgrove) for more details. ■

## SOCIAL ACTION

## Kudos to Nancy Neavel for her work with the People's Community Clinic

In last month's newsletter we ran article about People's Community Clinic and the wonderful First UU members who volunteer with this great organization. However, we failed to mention a woman who brought the needs of the clinic to the attention of the Social Action Committee and who helped shepherd the volunteering efforts with Sheri Overton for the past seven years, Nancy Neavel. Nancy, who has a lifetime interest in social causes, continues to be the fairy godmother for our volunteering efforts.

The People's Community Clinic has delivered care to people with little or no health insurance for many years. PCC patients have access to prenatal, pediatric, adolescent and adult care; immunizations; social work and integrated behavioral health services; and chronic disease

management. Charges for services are on a sliding scale according to patient income and household size.

Whether you would be interested in one of the ongoing volunteer needs, such as the monthly Tuesday collating group, or just being on an occasional special needs list, we would love to hear from you. For more information about the Clinic's work or volunteering, email us at [pcc@austinuu.org](mailto:pcc@austinuu.org). Check out the Tuesday collating group by joining us at the PCC, 2909 North IH35, second floor Board room, on the second Tuesday of each month between 9:30 and 10 a.m. We are finished by noon. Some volunteers go for lunch together afterwards. It's fun, it's needed, and it's appreciated! ■

## First UU's Donation makes manual a reality

Last summer First UU gave a Share the Plate donation of almost \$1,500 to Austin Interfaith Environmental Network for the production of a manual to help houses of worship decrease their carbon footprint. Now that manual is a reality and our Board President, Susan

Thomson, received special thanks and one of the first manuals from IEN at a ceremony at the City of Austin Earth Day Celebration.

The manual was produced in conjunction with Climate Buddies and will be free to congregations that want to use it. It will also be available online on the Climate Buddies website. Several people from our congregation's Green Sanctuary Committee helped work on the manual. We are all very delighted with the final product. It's positive, attractive and easy to use. Congregations can choose to take big steps or small steps to save energy and reduce their carbon footprint, but every step we take makes a difference and adds up to make a better future for ourselves, our children and the plants and animals we share the earth with.

So, congratulations to everyone at First UU for helping plant this seed and getting the manual into the hands of congregations who want to use it. We have a copy in our library if you would like to look at it and think about things we might want to do here at First UU to be energy smart. ■



*Susan Thomson with Dr. Patty Stephens, who in the role of "Mother Earth," presented Susan a big thank you.*

## May special collection: Austin Child Guidance Center

by Russell Smith

The mission of Austin Child Guidance Center is to improve the mental health of children and their families through early intervention, diagnosis, and treatment to help them develop the emotional skills for meeting life's challenges. A multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and counselors provides individual, family, and group therapy; psychological assessments; psychiatric evaluations and medical consultations; parent education; community presentations and consultations; and training to current and future mental health professionals.

Setting the standard for the treatment of children and families experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges for more over 62 years, ACGC offers a full continuum of mental health services from a central location as well as throughout the community, including the juvenile justice center, community health clinics, the local school district, and 10 local child-care centers. The full range of clinical services are available on a sliding fee scale; no one is denied services if unable to pay. Every year, approximately 87% of clients are low-income families (for example, living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level).

Danny is one of the over 3,500 lives ACGC touches each year (over 130,000 since we opened our doors):

Danny was a third grader growing up in a stable, middle-class, and otherwise

completely normal home. He was then faced with an unexpected and violent incident that would be difficult for any 8-year-old. Danny witnessed his uncle, who was a long-time struggling addict, as he assaulted Danny's family members in Danny's home. Danny reacted so strongly that his behavior regressed to that of a 4-year-old. Danny also had irrational fears that something bad was going to happen to his mother if she left his sight. Danny had trouble sleeping, and his anxiety and fear invaded every aspect of the family's life. His mother desperately wanted to be able to help her son, but felt lost and

powerless about how to best to handle Danny's reactions.

At Austin Child Guidance Center, he began individual therapy. When Danny started, he was unable to talk about his uncle or even hear his name. The therapist used a combination of play and talk therapy to guide Danny

through his perceptions about the attack. Danny also learned tools for relaxation to ease the anxiety he experienced when thinking about his uncle. This gave him room to make his own meaning of the trauma and gain confidence in his own ability to face his fears. On top of that, Mom's work with the therapist gave her the tools she needed to guide her son out of what was a dark and frightening place. ■

**The mission of Austin Child Guidance Center (ACGC) is to improve the mental health of children and their families through early intervention, diagnosis, and treatment to help them develop the emotional skills for meeting life's challenges.**

## Sign the petition for women's health

As the War on Women makes outrageous progress in the Texas Legislature, the First UU Action for Justice team has created a petition to promote our UU values supporting women's healthcare. We are asking First UU Austin members and friends to join us in generating as many signatures as possible by going to the link and signing in support at: <https://www.change.org/petitions/texas-legislators-restore-funding-for-family-planning-and-reproductive-health-care-services>.

Alexandra Neville, who is both a First UU Action for Justice team member and vice chair of the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry, wrote the petition with feedback from Austin UUs. We want many Texas UUs to join us by signing it by May 5.

As always, First UU members may find other ways to join our advocacy efforts by contacting coordinator Samantha Fredrickson at [justice@austinuu.org](mailto:justice@austinuu.org). The Texas Legislature will stay in session through the end of May. The UU voice must be heard. ■



## Seniors Luncheon

**Tuesday, May 14 noon, Howson Hall**

Suzy Gallagher and Kit Thompson with Greta Gutman, piano, will perform favorite songs from well known musicals. They will include some light musical fare. They started their new musical career at our Seniors Luncheon last year. We're glad to welcome them back this year. \$5 for lunch.

RSVP to Alice Cashman @ 512-837-0988. ■

## “Bluebonnet Blitz” great success

Sixty nine First UU members and friends joined forces at the Hands on Housing “Bluebonnet Blitz” on Saturday, April 13. “We had 40 people at the morning session,” says Beverly Donoghue, Hands on Housing coordinator. “Then there were almost 30 more at the afternoon session.” These enthusiastic volunteers were repairing, repainting and revitalizing the home of homeowner George Benson.

Hands on Housing, a program of Interfaith Action of Central Texas, uses volunteers and skilled professionals to repair and revitalize the homes of senior citizens and disabled homeowners who are living in deep poverty. The goal of the program is to help them safely remain in the homes they love and to provide an outlet for the compassion shared by all of the great faith traditions. Since 1990, Hands on Housing volunteers have repaired more than 1400 homes. ■



*Kitty Traylor and Jon Montgomery at Bluebonnet Blitz on April 13.*



*Hands on Housing volunteers take a break.*



*Getting ready for next project*



*Hands on Housing volunteer busy sanding*



**PARADOX****Paradox Players update****Main Stage**

Paradox Players is a beehive of spring activity. Rehearsals for our June main stage show, "Next Fall," a contemporary comedy/drama, begins in May.

We have a greater than usual need for help with set construction and painting and for light and sound board operators (comprehensive training provided) for this show. In addition, we are always looking for house managers and box office help. Contact us at [info@paradoxplayers.org](mailto:info@paradoxplayers.org). This is a great way for new members to get involved with a church activity and meets lots of people. ■

**Readers' Theater****Monday, May 13****7:30 p.m., Gallery**

Join us as we finish reading "Postville," a full-length play about real events in a small Iowa town. This is also the theme of the film "Abused: The Postville Raid," which was viewed on movie night in April. This play, written by Paradox Players' Don Fried, uses humor and suspense to highlight complexities of the social and political issues at stake when a Hasidic group try to revive a meat packing plant in a depressed town. Newcomers welcome. Experience the intersection of Art with Spring into Action—a theater's take on immigration! ■

**Sharing Supper****Saturday, May 18**

A Sharing Supper is a great way to meet lots of newcomers and long-time UUs from across the greater Austin area. Sharing Suppers are casual adult dinners, the third Saturday of each month. Groups of six to 10 people gather in various participants' homes, and everyone contributes to the dinner. Sharing Suppers are open to all adults in the church, new or established, couples or singles, and you need not be a member to participate. Sign up for one dinner at a time; no long-term commitment. Participants take turns hosting and planning the meal or helping co-host in another person's home. The next Sharing Supper will be May 18. The signup deadline is Sunday, May 12. Contact Jeanne Barker at [sharing@austinuu.org](mailto:sharing@austinuu.org) to sign up. ■

## Spring Into Action 2013 culminates with information fair on May 5

Throughout the month of April, Spring into Action 2013—First UU's church-wide outreach project—has offered educational and volunteer opportunities related to the important, and sometimes divisive, issue of immigration. Even though Spring into Action is ending for this year, we hope that First UU members will continue to engage with the issue of immigration in ways that allow us to live our mission to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.

To give you some ideas about how local organizations are working on immigration issues, Spring into Action is hosting an information fair at which local non-profits will share what they are doing to support and advocate for immigrants and will provide information about volunteer opportunities. Participating non-profits include the ACLU of Texas, Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera,

Casa Marianella, the Center for Survivors of Torture, Grassroots Leadership, iACT for Refugees, the University Leadership Initiative (Austin Dreamers), and the Workers Defense Project.

The information fair will take place on Sunday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the patio. The Fellowship Committee has organized refreshments to be served on the patio after the second service. Please join us to learn all about the great work local non-profits are doing on immigration issues and how you can help! ■



## Children sign-in changes

Parents, please sign your children in to Sunday School before heading into service. There will be four clipboards outside the sanctuary, one for each class. This is just another step we are taking to ensure the safety of our kids. New-comers and visitors, please complete a visitor's card before sending your kids to Religious Ed. If you do not see your child's name on our rosters, please fill out a registration form for this RE school year, available at the LRE table. ■

## Child and youth spring curricula

This spring, we are beginning curricula that focus on helping the children understand and articulate the beliefs of faith traditions outside our own, while continuing to develop strategies for ethical decision-making.

**Pre-K (3 & 4 year olds):**  
***We Are Many, We Are One***

**K-1st: *Picture Book World Religions***

**2nd-3rd: *A World of New Friends: Introduction to World Religions***

**4th-5th: *Why Do Bad Things Happen?***

## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Lifespan RE highlights

by Marisol Caballero



Thanks so much! I cannot say it enough! Thank you all so very much! I was amazed at how wonderfully this community came

together to celebrate my ordination. I was so moved by the number of people who shared in the planning and execution of the entire night and helped me welcome our many guests that night. I had an absolute blast and will forever remember the day! I am not sure that anyone else has started out their ministry with such a bang! I am a truly blessed gal. Thank you, Mari ■

### Goodbye, F.Re.D., Hello, Summer.

F.Re.D. (Fellowship, Religious Ed, and Dinner), our Wednesday evening weekly

happening, will be going on hiatus for the summer at the end of this month. Our last get-together before September will be May, 29, so show up and eat while you can! ■

### Children/Youth RE Town Hall Meeting,

***May 19, 12:15 p.m.***

***Rm. 13***

Parents and families of Sunday School students and youth group members are invited to this conversation about our Religious Education program. We will be answering any questions and gathering feedback. As everyone's voice is important, it is critical that a representative from each of our registered families attends. Snacks will be provided. Hope to see you there! Thanks so much! ■

## Art Mission returns with The Writing Way

Art Mission is an all-volunteer multi-generational creativity outreach program of First UU that offers workshops, art actions and events that use creativity to transform lives, build community and do justice. Art Mission's artistic director is Kiya Heartwood. If you would like to volunteer, or if you have questions about the program, please contact Kiya at [kiya@kiyaheartwood.com](mailto:kiya@kiyaheartwood.com).

**The Writing Way**  
***Tuesdays, May 28-June 18***  
***Rm. 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m.***

Part of the Art Mission at First UU, the Writing Way is a creative writing workshop for ages 10 and up that explores a variety of writing styles from poetry to

short stories, songwriting to autobiography. Learn techniques for breaking writer's block and experiment with writing from many different angles. No experience is necessary. A notebook and a pen are the only materials you need.

The workshop is led by Kiya Heartwood, a prize-winning poet and songwriter, published author, composer and playwright. A suggested donation of \$5 per class will go to future Art Mission materials and projects. Drop in for all four or any individual class. No one will be turned away for inability to pay. Free childcare provided. No reservation necessary. ■

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION OF  
CONGREGATIONS

## 2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 19-23, LOUISVILLE, KY.

Prepare to be moved and excited by viewing this short recap video of Justice GA 2012: <http://www.uua.org/ga/past/2012/209898.shtml>

Another exciting, educational, inspirational, UUA General Assembly is in store for us this summer! General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. They also have a lot of fun together!

Some program highlights include the Ware Lecture, Service of the Living Tradition, the Banner Parade, worship choices, opening and closing events, and the 2013 Public Witness event, which will focus on Environmental Justice. General Assembly is the biggest event of the year for our denomination with often 3,000 to 4,000 UUs in attendance and is always a wonderful place to connect with others of all ages in our denomination and make new friends from across the continent and globe.

This is a multi-generational experience that is accessible and welcoming to families with children. New this year: Children who have not yet entered high school (or its equivalent) are welcome to attend GA events with their parents or guardians at no cost, but are still required to register. Childcare will be available as well as Covenant Children's Camp.

Further information regarding children's programming, Youth Caucus (grades 9-12 in 2012-13), registration, housing options, financial aid for GA, accessibility services, GA schedule, and preliminary workshop sessions are available at this link: <http://www.uua.org/ga/>

Don't wait too long to make your summer plans. While several low-cost children's programs are available, advance registration is required and space is limited. Late registration ends on June 23.

Come together in Louisville for five unforgettable days! ■

### Summer Camp 2013 at UBarU!

Registration is open for the summer camps at UBarU! UBarU is a Unitarian Universalist Retreat and Conference Center located in the Hill Country near Kerrville, Texas. This is the place to be for fun and friendship in a UU setting. Week-long camps that include swimming, hiking, team-building, making new friends, and learning more about our UU faith are available for children and youth from grade 3 to recent high school graduates.

Camp costs \$475. Scholarship applications and registration forms are available here: <http://www.ubaru.org/home/Events/SummerCamp/tabid/1434/Default.aspx> Space is limited. Register early!

June 30-July 6  
Primary Camp  
(rising grade 3-6)

July 7-13 Junior Camp  
(rising grade 7-9)

July 14-20 Senior Camp  
(rising grade 9-12)

UBarU is seeking summer camp adult volunteers and a camp nurse. See the website above for further details. ■

### SAVE THE DATE

June 19-23 - UUA General Assembly, Louisville, Ky.

June 30-July 6 - SWUUC Primary Camp, UBarU, Kerrville, Texas, [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org)

July 7-13 - SWUUC Junior Camp, UBarU, Kerrville, Texas, [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org)

July 14-20 - SWUUC Senior Camp, UBarU, Kerrville, Texas, [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org)

July 21-26 - Southwest UU Summer Institute (SWUUSI), Western Hills Guest Ranch, Tahlequah, Okla. (Everyone welcome, with or without children!) ■



# Congratulations Rev. Marisol Caballero!

They came from California; they came from New York City; they came from Boston; they came from Austin; and they came from across the country. And they all came together on Friday, April 26, as family, friends and co-workers celebrated the ordination of Rev. Marisol Caballero. It was a long journey that began and ended at First UU more than 14 years ago. Teachers, mentors, associates and friends all participated in the ceremony.

More than 250 gathered for the service in the Sanctuary, which was followed by wonderful music by Tish Hinojosa on the patio under the trees, a Texas-style potluck dinner and dancing in Howson Hall.

Highlights of the ceremony included special greetings from the Alumni of Union Theological Seminary in New York, the Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries, the UU Youth and Young Adults of Color Community and the Congregation of Neighborhood UU Church of Pasadena, Calif. Rev. Clyde Grubbs presented Mari with the shawl worn by Mari's mentor and friend, the late Rev. Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley. Rev. Lilia Cuervo, associate minister at First Parish Cambridge Unitarian Universalist, delivered the sermon, "Of Unitarian Universalism: Dreams and Us."

The children and youth of First UU presented their charge to the new minister and Rev. Meg Barnhouse presented the charge to the First UU congregation. Mari is the new assistant minister for First UU and will continue to lead Lifespan Religious Education at the church. Congratulations, Mari!



*Mari and Rev. Clyde Grubbs*



*Reverend Marisol Caballero*



*Tom Johnson, Kirk Zottnick, and Melanie Kofnovec*



*Rev. Pamela Wat and Rev. Meg Barnhouse*





*President Susan Thomson congratulates Mari after ordination by First UU congregation.*



*Musician Tish Hinojosa performs for the crowd*



*Mari and partner, Erin, with young friend on the patio*



*Erin congratulates Rev. Mari Caballero after ordination.*



*Isla and Kaitlyn all dressed up to party*



*Rev. Lilia Cuervo gives the sermon at the ordination ceremony.*

## Martha's Free Breakfast\*

Come join us every Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. for Martha's Free Breakfast. We'll meet in Howson Hall before the first Sunday service for breakfast tacos, coffee and juice. What a great way to start the day—fellowship and food! ■

\*Funded by a bequest from Martha Leipziger.

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

## MAY 5

### The Right Thing to Do

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

"Right Action" is the next element in our series on Buddhism's Eightfold Path. We avoid suffering by doing the right things: 1. not harming anyone or anything, 2. not taking what is not given, and 3. not using our sexuality in a destructive way. Again, doing these things doesn't make you "bad," Buddhism just asks you to notice what brings happiness and what brings suffering.

*The Balcones String Quartet will share their music for both morning services.*

## MAY 12

### Mother of all Services

WITH REV. MARI CABALLERO

Come and celebrate mothers and their willingness to speak truth to power for the sake of children worldwide! Please come equipped with a memory of being mothered (by anyone) in which you felt protected and safe. Some may wish to bring a small item that reminds you of your mother or someone who mothered you to hold during service.

*Music will feature the First UU of Austin Children's Choirs and the First UU Inter-generational Choir.*

## MAY 19

### Youth service

WITH ANDREW YOUNG

*The youth will be joined by the First UU House Band*

## MAY 26

### Flower Communion Sunday

WITH REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

We will enjoy our annual tradition of Flower Communion. Please bring a flower to share! This is an all-ages (inter-generational), so there will be no Sunday School classes, as service will be too fun for kids to want to miss!

*The First UU of Austin Inter-generational Choir will sing for morning services.*



# THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

## MAY 5

### Cinco de Mayo, no Forum

## MAY 12

### American Exceptionalism and the Death Penalty

WITH JORDAN STEIKER

The U.S. has long been regarded as an outlier (*vis-à-vis* other Western democracies) in its retention of the death penalty. Much contemporary death penalty scholarship seeks to explain the causes of American retention. This talk will focus on another distinctive feature of the American experience: the effort to regulate capital punishment. What does the American experiment with legal regulation of the death penalty tell us about the promises and pitfalls of law reform movements and legal regulation more generally? And in what ways has legal regulation entrenched or destabilized American capital punishment? Will legal regulation bring us closer to or further from abolition?

## MAY 19

### The Fight to Save Juárez: Life in the Heart of Mexico's Drug War

WITH DR. RICO AINSLIE

Dr. Ainslie will talk about his three-and-a-half years researching and writing his recently published book on Juárez, Mexico from 2008 to 2011. These were the most violent years in Ciudad Juárez, the epicenter of the Mexican drug war. He

will discuss the interviews he conducted, the challenges he faced, and how he chose the book's four main characters. He will bring us up to date on the current situation in Juárez and Mexico in general.

## MAY 26

### Memorial Day, no Forum

## We want to hear from you

Beginning with the June issue of the First UU newsletter, we are adding a new column called "Transitions." This column will highlight First UU members' important life events, such as weddings, birthdays, graduations, births, retirements, promotions, awards, deaths, moves and all other important life events.

Please send your announcements to [news@austinuu.org](mailto:news@austinuu.org). Be sure to include the event, the date of event, the name of the individual and any other information that you think is important to share.

## Eclectic Folk Jam

**Friday, May 10**  
**7:00–10:00 p.m.**  
**First UU Church**

The Eclectic Folk Jam, an open jam session for singers and instrumentalists, is held on the second Friday of every month. We have "Rise Up Singing" songbooks. Some people like to bring copies of their favorite songs to pass out. Bring drinks and snacks to share. Contact Pete and Kim Akenhead at 512-834-0188 or Mary Jane Ford at 512-926-4122 or [singalong@austinuu.org](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org). ■

## UU/Quaker Singalong

**Saturday, May 25**  
**7:30–10:30 p.m.**  
**Friends Meeting House**  
**3701 E. MLK Blvd.**

Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing. Copies of "Rise Up Singing" are provided. This is an alcohol-free event, round-robin format, held on the fourth Saturday of every month. Contact Larry Vaughn 512-469-0029 or Mary Jane Ford at [singalong@austinuu.org](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org). ■

**First Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of Austin**

512.452.6168  
austinuu.org

Senior Minister

**Rev. Meg Barnhouse**

Director of Finance  
and Operations

**Sean Hale**

Assistant Minister

**Marisol Caballero**

Director of Music

**Brent Baldwin**

Director of Membership  
and Communications

**Carla Jo Schaefer**

Board President

**Susan Thomson**

president@austinuu.org

**First Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of Austin**

4700 Grover Ave.  
Austin, TX 78756

## Operation Freshen UUp surges forward!

Thanks to the efforts of numerous volunteers, the church hallways are sporting fresh new paint – Humble Gold, to be exact! Two chalice circles chose helping to paint the hallways as their service project, creating a core of positive energy for the two painting parties on April 6 and April 20. We have also enjoyed the efforts of many other volunteers at the painting parties, as well as in the days leading up to Mari's ordination event. To goal was to have hallways that would be welcoming of our visitors and, thanks to some intense volunteer hours by several members, all of the walls in the office hallway were painted just in time for the big event.

An exciting side-effect of the Freshen UUp efforts is the opportunity it affords for us to look carefully at our space and how we use it. For example, painting

the hallways provided an opportunity for us to consider both the effectiveness and appearance of the bulletin boards. As a result Carla Jo Schaefer, our Director of Membership and Communications, is introducing an electronic bulletin board that will be located centrally and will contain current information. As Freshen UUp continues, please watch for additional changes coordinated with the signage and bulletin board features on both the inside and outside of our church facility.

During May, there are many tasks, small as well as large, that can benefit from volunteer efforts. Please check out the checklist of Freshen UUp activities on a loose bulletin board near Meg's office. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the Freshen UUp coordinator, Vicki Almstrum, at FreshenUUp@austinuu.org. ■